

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 9/3/75

Former Special Agent JOSEPH L. SCHOTT (new retired) was interviewed by Assistant Director HAROLD N. BASSETT and Special Agent in Charge of the Tampa Office FRANCIS M. MULLEN, JR., at the Fort Worth, Texas Resident Agency, located at 402 U. S. Courthouse, Fort Worth, Texas 76102.

At the outset of the interview, MR. SCHOTT was furnished an Interrogation; Advice of Rights form which he read and stated that he understood but that he had no intention of signing. MR. SCHOTT stated that he taught this at the college level and was well aware of his rights. He also informed the interviewing Agents that he was not going to furnish a sworn statement.

MR. SCHOTT furnished his current address as 4004. El Campo, Fort Worth, Texas 76107, telephone 817-738-0601, and his business address as Tarrant County Junior College, Northeast Campus, 828 Harwood Road, Hurst, Texas 76053, telephone 817-281-7860, extension 278, where MR. SCHOTT indicated he was the Department Head of the Law Enforcement Academy.

MR. SCHOTT was told that he was being interviewed in view of information appearing on page 1, of the Dallas Times Herald in its issue of September 1, 1975, which contained results of an interview with MR. SCHOTT apparently by the Associated Press and regarding a previous article which had appeared in the newspaper on Sunday (August 31, 1975) concerning an alleged visit by LEE HARVEY OSWALD to the Dallas FBI Office prior to the assassination of President KENNEDY. The pertinent portion of that article was read to MR. SCHOTT as set forth below.

Interviewed on 9/3/75 at Fort Worth, Texas File #
by Assistant Director HAROLD N. BASSETT and
Special Agent in Charge FRANCIS M. MULLEN/HNB/EMM/nc 9/3/75

"Joseph L. Schott, author of the numerous book about the FBI, 'No Left Turns,' said Sunday that he understood that Oswald, in his note, 'threatened to kill Hosty if Hosty tried to talk to his wife Marina again.'

"Hosty put the letter in his work box -- for incoming mail -- and it was still there on the day of the assassination," Schott said.

"He added that he didn't know what happened to the letter but assumed it was destroyed."

MR. SCHOTT advised that he was not going to identify any individuals who may have furnished him information. MR. SCHOTT was asked if in fact this was an interview by an Associated Press reporter, and he replied in the affirmative. He said that he was contacted telephonically on Sunday, August 31, 1975, and told the reporter that he would have to check. He then claimed that he referred to some notes that he had made and from these notes, he concluded that he received this information from another individual, whose identity he refused to disclose, while in Wichita Falls, Texas, in the early part of 1964, in connection with either a Grand Jury proceeding or a trial.

MR. SCHOTT advised that with regard to these notes, "he had a fire" and when asked what he meant by this, he stated that he had burned these notes that he had referred to.

He was asked if he had any additional information concerning the matter in question other than what had appeared in the newspaper and he said he did not. He claimed that as he understood it, OSWALD came to the office, gave a note to some people, that it contained a threat to kill HOSTY, that HOWE saw the note, who may have given it to HOSTY. HOSTY read it and put it in his workbook where it was at the time of the assassination. He said other than this, he knew nothing about the note except that he never received any information indicating that the note contained any kind of a threat whatsoever with regard to President KENNEDY. He stated that his information was based on what he was told, that he never personally saw the note and had certainly no firsthand knowledge concerning the information set forth above.

During the interview, MR. SCHOTT stated that the fact that this matter has never been brought to light has bothered him since he was in receipt of the information. By way of explanation, he stated that he was an historian of sorts and considered the fact that this matter had never been reported as "kind of a fraud against history".

MR. SCHOTT was asked whether he had discussed this matter with anyone since the above news item of September 1, 1975, and he advised that he appeared on one television news broadcast on Channel 8, Dallas, on Labor Day, September 1, 1975, and then was interviewed on the Criswell Show for thirty minutes on September 2, 1975, also a Channel 8 program. MR. SCHOTT stated that to his knowledge neither he nor his wife had discussed the matter with anyone else.

MR. SCHOTT was asked whether he had any other information relating to the assassination of significance and he stated he did not.

It was pointed out to MR. SCHOTT that his attitude in refusing to furnish any names, particularly as it applied to his source, could possibly change should there be some type of formal hearing concerning the matter such as a Congressional hearing or possibly a Grand Jury proceeding. MR. SCHOTT responded he had no intention of furnishing this information to us and that he had no intention of furnishing this information to any committee which might convene at some future date.

MR. SCHOTT was asked whether he was the source of information resulting in the story which appeared in the August 31, 1975 issue of the Dallas Times Herald. MR. SCHOTT was quite adamant when he stated he was not and if he had been inclined to release this story, he had his own way of doing it and under no circumstances would he ever have used that particular newspaper as a vehicle to release the story. MR. SCHOTT then volunteered that he has an opinion that the source could be the FBI itself and that it was MR. KELLEY's way of releasing to the public this information. He indicated that

the newspaper article stated that the information had been brought to the Bureau's attention on July 7, 1975, and that an inquiry had been conducted. He indicated that he could not conceive taking this long, and that if in fact, an inquiry had been conducted, he was positive that he would have learned of it.